

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WARRINGTON.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

ON THE

Housing Conditions

IN THE BOROUGH.



WARRINGTON :  
PRINTED BY MACKIE AND CO. LTD.  
1920.



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
HEALTH COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,—

In accordance with the request of the Ministry of Health, (Memo 9/Med. January, 1920), a separate report is furnished herewith on the Housing conditions in the Borough in order to facilitate reference to a matter which is so prominent at the present time.

The period dealt with in the report is the year ending December 31st, 1919, but certain more recent particulars are included.

Progress with building schemes is admittedly slow on account of shortage of materials, lack of labour, the procedure laid down, &c. One feels that had certain main principles been enunciated by the Ministry of Health, and the details left to Local Authorities, the progress throughout the country would have been more rapid.

As it is, only those in close touch with the work can realise and appreciate the amount of time and energy spent on the problem by the members of the Housing Committee and the Town Council as a whole. Meetings dealing with the subject have been very frequent and lengthy.

It is not generally recognised either, what an enormous amount of extra work and responsibility these schemes have entailed on Municipal Departments, not only on Health, but especially on the Town Clerk's and Borough Surveyor's Departments. The problem of housing the people has been made a National one, but those who have formulated the scheme on behalf of the State have made no adequate provision either for extra staff or extra remuneration for the already overworked officials of the Local Authorities.

At the time of writing (June, 1920) the first two of the wooden houses have been finished in the Liverpool Road Area, and are already occupied, whilst some of the concrete and the brick houses in the Manchester Road Area are rapidly nearing completion.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

G. W. N. JOSEPH.



# I. General Housing Conditions of the District.

The majority of the buildings in Warrington are of brickwork, and the houses average from 30 to 40 to the gross acre. In the older and central portion, comprising chiefly Town Hall, Howley and St. John's Wards, the streets are narrow, but the back courts and alleys containing insanitary dwellings are gradually disappearing through the efforts of the Health Committee and various street widening operations.

Shops and offices are largely supplanting residences in the middle of the town, and many of the people employed within the Borough now live on the outskirts at Stockton Heath, Latchford or Grappenhall, to the South, in the Runcorn Rural District or at Padgate, to the East, and Sankey, to the West, in the Warrington Rural District.

Work and wages are good in Warrington, and rents have always been very low (2s. 6d. to 8s. per week, even at present).

## 1. No. of Houses.

The number of houses in the Borough is approximately 14,827.

Returns showing number of dwelling-houses and lock-up shops in the Borough on July 15th, 1915:—

Ward.	OCCUPIED.	
	Houses.	Lock-up.
Town Hall	957	153
Whitecross	1,874	16
Bewsey	1,002	10
Orford	1,909	12
St. John's	2,075	33
Fairfield	2,095	16
Howley	1,302	58
St. Austin's	1,291	90
Latchford	2,322	33
	14,827	421

Practically speaking, all the dwelling-houses may be considered houses for the working classes, except about 1,500.

The number of rooms in the 14,827 dwelling-houses is approximately as follows:—

2 Roomed Houses...	250
4, 5 or 6 Roomed Houses	13,000
More than 6 Rooms	1,577
	14,827

The majority of houses are two storey buildings, a few only possess three storeys. There are very few houses with cellars or underground rooms or any rooms the floor level of which is below the street level.

NEW HOUSES. No new houses were built in the town during the year 1919, nor, indeed, during any year since 1915.

The next table gives the number of new houses certified as fit for occupation for the last six years in which building operations were being carried on by private enterprise:—

Year	...	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
Town Hall	...	—	—	—	—	—	1
Whitecross	...	2	—	—	—	—	—
Bewsey	...	27	—	—	—	—	—
Orford	...	—	114	21	4	—	—
St. John's	...	—	2	—	—	—	—
Fairfield	...	107	33	33	25	20	—
Howley	...	9	21	—	4	—	—
St. Austin's	...	5	25	2	11	5	6
Latchford	...	25	26	43	43	33	8
Total		202	221	99	87	58	15

## 2. Population.

At the last Census (1911) the population of Warrington was 72,166.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population for the year 1919 for calculating the death-rate was 74,952, and for calculating the birth-rate, 78,078. Until a new Census is taken it is very difficult for us to be certain as to what the true population is.

When we conducted our inquiries early in 1919, we based our estimate on the population as shown from the Ration Cards.

In November, 1918, the Ration Card population was 68,677, and between that date and the summer of 1919, about 4,500 men were demobilised. This gives a total of 73,177, which is lower than the Registrar General's estimate.

Between 1915 and 1917, the average natural increase of births over deaths was only about half what it was in the previous 3 years.

1912	...	...	1,009	Average natural increase 1,010.
1913	...	...	1,026	
1914	...	...	1,006	
1915	...	...	697	Average natural increase 650.
1916	...	...	704	
1917	...	...	528	

The marriages each year since 1911 are shown as follows:—

1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918
621	617	679	610	731	657	517	564

Although in the years 1917 and 1918 there was a decided drop in the number of marriages compared with former years, it is likely that there will be a large increase in the near future, and, therefore, a greater demand for houses, owing to the numbers of men returning from the Services and owing to the higher wages now received.



In addition, quite a number of men have married whilst serving away on various stations and are now coming home with wives who have never resided in this town before, whereas in the past nearly all marriages were among local residents.

### 3. (a) Extent of Shortage of Houses.

In 1911 (the last Census year), there were in this town 14,780 houses (excluding those in Orford Barracks), and since then 259 new houses have been built. But 97 houses have been closed or demolished owing to their insanitary condition, and about 50 more have been used for other purposes, leaving a nett total of 14,892 dwelling-houses in the Borough at the present time, all of which are occupied.

During the five years preceding 1911, 1,109 houses (see table page 3) were built, or an average of 221 per year. During the five years, 1911 to 1915 (since which date no new houses have been erected in the town), only 480 new houses were built, or an average of 96 per year. On the basis even of this low average of 96 per year, we were 288 short at the beginning of 1919, as none were built during the three years 1916-17-18. But in addition there were at the beginning of the period 1911 to 1915, 603 unoccupied dwelling-houses in Warrington, and this number, together with the 480—a total of 1,083 have all been absorbed, so that there have been no unoccupied houses in the town since 1916.

The average annual rate of absorption, therefore, for the six years, was 180 per annum.

Our population during the war was not increasing as rapidly as it was in the previous years (see also tables, page 3). Probably, therefore, the actual requirements per year at present do not exceed 160 new houses.

In our estimate of the Housing Needs of the Borough (October, 1919), the following figures were given:—

#### *Working Class Houses required during the next 3 years to*

(a) Meet the unsatisfied demand for houses (taking account of growth of population	480	(3 years requirements).
overcrowding, &c.) ... ..	202	(overcrowding).
(b) Re-house persons to be displaced by the clearance of unhealthy areas ... ..	33	
(c) Replace other dwellings which are unfit for human habitation and cannot be made fit	205	
(d) Replace obstructive or other buildings now inhabited and not included under heading (c), which should be demolished. ... ..	—	
*(e) Replace other houses which, although they cannot at present be regarded as unfit for human habitation, fall definitely below a reasonable standard ... ..	428	
(f) Meet anticipated deficiencies, e.g., arising from new industrial development ... ..	31	(Houses that will be pulled down for Works Extension).
	1,379	

This may require some modification as the scheme progresses.

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\*It is questionable whether all the houses in this group fall so far below the standard that they can be dealt with during the next three years.

**(b) Measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage.**

In view of the requirements set out on page 4, the Local Authority decided to build 1,000 houses.

Every effort was made during the year to obtain the approval of the Ministry of Health to the various plans and suggestions of the Council.

Six sites were negotiated for in different parts of the town, namely:—

Cornwall Street, Manchester Road,	}	Manchester Road District.
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Reynolds Street, Park Avenue, Westy Lane,	}	Latchford District.
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Bewsey,

Of these sites two were actually purchased during 1919, viz:—  
Cornwall Street and Manchester Road sites. (See also page 11).

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## **II. Overcrowding.**

**(1) Extent.**

There is a considerable amount of overcrowding in the town.

A survey was made in the early part of 1919, when it was found that in 202 houses there were more than 2 persons per room.

Since that time, overcrowding has increased, chiefly owing to the numbers of men demobilised, and I should estimate that there are at present not less than 400 overcrowded houses (on the basis of more than 2 persons per room per house).

**(2) Causes.**

The main cause is shortage of houses.

**(3) Measures taken or contemplated to deal with Overcrowding.**

It is practically impossible to do anything to relieve overcrowding until new houses are provided.

**(4) Principal cases of Overcrowding dealt with during the year and action taken.**

Whenever possible our Inspectors have assisted to find other apartments for the worst cases of overcrowding. Except in isolated instances, owners of property and their agents have willingly helped us in this, and in the event of a house becoming vacant have given preference to applicants recommended by us.



### III. Fitness of Houses.

#### 1. (a) General standard of housing in the district.

The general standard of housing is good compared with many other similar industrial towns. Owing, however, to shortage of labour and difficulty in obtaining necessary materials, many minor repairs are neglected by the owners, and this, coupled with the fact that paintwork has not been attended to, will, in the near future, have a serious effect on the general condition. In this connection, certain results of the Restriction of Rents Acts are alluded to under the heading "General and Miscellaneous," on page 10.

Only 1,990 houses are fitted with baths or hot-water supplies. Nearly all the houses have facilities for washing clothes. As a rule, however, the copper boilers are fixed in the scullery and the washing is done there—no outside washhouses being provided.

A large proportion of houses are deficient in accommodation for storing food stuffs.

There are still 16 back-to-back houses in the town, but we have no tenement houses, terrace houses, flats, nor cellar dwellings.

#### (b) General character of defects found to exist in unfit houses.

The majority of defects found by our Inspectors or reported to us, consist of:—

Defective Roofs.  
Defective Spouting.  
Blocked Drains.  
Defective Closets.

#### 2. Action taken as regards unfit houses under (a) Public Health Acts. (b) Housing Acts.

##### (a) Public Health Acts.

Defects, when possible, are remedied by our powers under these Acts (especially sect. 91 P.H.A. 1875).

No. of Houses inspected for nuisances under

P.H.A.	...	...	...	...	1,487
No. of nuisances found	...	...	...	...	1,914
No. of nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	1,777 (92.8 per cent).

##### (b) Housing Acts.

Notices under Section 17, &c., of the Housing and Town Planning Act, of 1909, are issued as required, and much more would be done if we were in a position to re-house the occupants of some of the worst houses.

We have taken no proceedings under Section 28 of the new Act.



### **3. Difficulties in remedying unfitness.**

Our difficulties in this direction have been many. It is impracticable in some instances to carry out the drastic alterations necessary to make the house satisfactory whilst it is occupied, and owing to the ever-increasing shortage of accommodation in the town, little can be done until new houses have been provided. Shortage of labour obviously delays the remedying of even minor defects.

Not only, too, is there a shortage of certain essential materials, but the present high cost of those obtainable is a great bar to immediate and effectual improvement of conditions. The small increase in rents anticipated under the proposed amended Restriction of Rents Bill, in most instances, in all probability, will be rapidly swallowed up in putting the property into even a moderate state of repair.

### **4. Conditions so far as they affect housing, as regards Water Supply, Closet Accommodation and Refuse Disposal.**

#### **Water supply.**

All the houses are supplied with a constant supply of pure water from the Corporation mains, and each house has a separate tap.

#### **Closet Accommodation.**

There are only 1,250 water closets in dwelling-houses, the pail closet system being in vogue in approximately 13,500 cases. Further particulars are given in the Annual Report for 1919.

At the time of writing, the Health Committee again have the matter of conversion to the water-carriage system under consideration.

#### **Refuse Disposal.**

There is at present only one dry ashpit in the Borough, and movable ashbins with covers have been substituted for fixed receptacles.

During the year 1919, the accumulation of household refuse has been very troublesome. The Cleansing Department attribute this to the poor coal causing more ash than usual, and to transport difficulty with lack of labour preventing that regular removal of refuse which is so essential to health. The bins have been overflowing to such an extent as to prevent the proper closing of the ash place doors, and in innumerable instances the doors have thus been broken off at the hinges.

The destructors have not been able to cope with all the material, and for the first time for many years the objectionable method of using a tip for refuse had to be resorted to in the Latchford District.

## IV. Unhealthy Areas.

- (1) No area in the town had been represented as unhealthy before the beginning of the year under Part I or Part II of the Housing Act of 1890.
- (2) During 1919 no areas were represented.
- (3) No complaints were made that areas were unhealthy.

In our Form of Survey of Housing Needs (October, 1919), we scheduled 3 areas as unhealthy:—

- (a) James Street area.
- (b) Dolman's Lane area.
- (c) Ship Yard area.

During 1920, however, it has been possible to join up the Dolman's Lane and Ship Yard areas and to deal comprehensively with this as one area.

Representations to the Local Authority that the two areas

- (a) James Street,
- (b) Dolman's Lane and Bank Street,

are unhealthy have been approved, and a resolution passed that improvement schemes should be drawn up.

The number of houses included in these areas is shown below, and all the new accommodation required is taken into account in our estimate of housing needs (page 4).

### (a) JAMES STREET.

Number of Houses ...	...	...	...	118
„ „ Occupants	...	...	...	531

### (b) DOLMAN'S LANE AND BANK STREET.

Number of Houses ...	...	...	...	106
„ „ Occupants	...	...	...	717

This includes 14 Common Lodging Houses, registered for 243 persons.

It is to be hoped that when the times comes to make improvements in these areas it will be possible to provide a Municipal Common Lodging House and Public Abbatoir for the town.

In order that improvement schemes for the clearance or reconstruction of unhealthy areas should rank for financial assistance from the State, it is necessary that complete details of all proposals should be submitted to the Ministry of Health within a stipulated period of the passing of the Housing Act, 1919. Among these details comes the preparation of a Book of Reference containing, with other things,

The Names and Addresses of

Owners or Reputed Owners,  
Lessees or Reputed Lessees,  
And Occupiers.



This entails a very large amount of trying work on the Housing Staff, especially in cases where the property is in the hands of executors. None of these areas can be dealt with until practically the whole of the houses necessary under our scheme have been provided. This may mean several years, whilst the particulars in the book of reference are out of date and valueless in a few months, and our work in compiling it wasted. Furthermore, by the time we are ready to deal with the area it may be that owing to developments in the town, this area could be laid out to far greater advantage than on the lines and according to the plans which we have had to submit years beforehand. It is very desirable, therefore, that the Ministry of Health should alter the conditions as to the submission of improvement schemes and should be satisfied at present with a description of the various areas, and an undertaking from the Local Authority that such areas would be dealt with as soon as practicable. Improvements could then be carried out in the light of the then existing conditions and requirements, which, at present, it is hard to foresee.

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## V. Byelaws relating to Houses, to Houses let in Lodgings and to Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c.

There are no byelaws relating to inhabited houses other than the model byelaws dealing with the prevention of nuisances arising from snow, filth, dust, ashes and rubbish, and the prevention of keeping of animals on any premises so as to be injurious to health. These model byelaws were adopted in 1910, and no action under them was necessary during the year 1919.

Certain byelaws with regard to Houses and Parts of Houses let in lodgings or occupied by more than one family were drawn up in 1867. No action has been taken under these of recent years, and these byelaws will need revision at an early date.

No byelaws have been made in Warrington dealing with tents, vans, sheds and other dwellings, but, when necessary, these are dealt with by our powers under Section 7 of the Housing of the Working Classes Act of 1885, which makes Section 91 of the Public Health Act, 1875, operative so far as these dwellings are concerned. No difficulty arises with regard to tents or sheds, but a large number of vans make Warrington a stopping place, and our Inspectors are constantly on the alert to see that occupants are provided with suitable water supply and sanitary conveniences, and that no nuisances are committed. As a rule, however, these dwellers in vans are a very cleanly group of people.

## VI. General and Miscellaneous.

In February, 1919, an advertisement was issued in the Local Press by the Town Clerk, calling upon persons (non-householders) requiring houses to register their names. All the applications were referred to the Health Department, and in response to the advertisement 464 were received. A register was compiled by us, all applicants were visited by our Inspectors, and full particulars obtained as to their present housing conditions. Those living under the worst conditions of overcrowding, &c., obviously will be first provided with accommodation.

Ever since then, applications have been continuously coming in, and full inquiries are made in every case.

In addition there are a large number of cases known to the Health Department where persons who have made no application to us are living under insanitary conditions, and these cases have also been classified and included in our list.

### **Living Rooms over Shops, &c.**

During the latter part of 1919 and early in 1920, a survey was made of the town to discover any unused rooms, over, or at the rear of business premises which might be used as residences, and thus, temporarily at any rate, help to ease the situation.

In 34 instances such rooms were found to exist. These were inspected and a report made on the general condition. Sixteen of the premises were entirely unsuitable. In 18 cases the Borough Surveyor was asked to report further as to the practicability of making the premises fit for occupation.

In all these cases, however, it was found that owing to the general condition of the premises, high cost of conversion, or interference with the business, the scheme could not be effective.

A survey was also made to discover empty houses, especially those that were being kept empty until the owner could sell with vacant possession, and 19 were found to be unoccupied. The Town Clerk communicated with the owners with a view to obtaining early tenancy. At the present time, 12 are in occupation; 7 are still empty. Of the 7 empty, 2 have been used as offices for some years and are being reconstructed for similar use. One has been sold and the owner is making alterations prior to occupation. One is in bad repair and required for works extension. Three are still kept closed by owners.

### **Housing Committee.**

The Housing Committee (of which 8 members are also members of the Health Committee), was formed as a Standing Committee of the Council by a resolution of the General Purposes Committee, passed on the 23rd June, 1919. Its first meeting was on the 25th June, 1919, and between that date and the end of the year the Committee held 13 meetings.



Six sites (Manchester Road, Cornwall Street, Reynolds Street, Park Avenue, Bewsey and Westy Lane), were negotiated for, and of these, two (Cornwall Street and Manchester Road) were purchased.

As a temporary measure to relieve the shortage the Council decided to purchase some Army huts in September, 1919, but approval to their erection was not obtained from the Ministry of Health until the following year.

The first advertisement for tenders for building was issued by the Borough Surveyor in October, 1919. No building operations, however, were commenced within the Borough during the year.

Early in 1920, the construction of 62 houses was commenced, 56 of brick in the Manchester Road area, 6 of concrete in Cornwall Street.

These latter are on the Dorman-Long system and are being erected by the Concrete Seacraft Co., Ltd.

In addition, 10 huts forming 20 houses are being erected in Wellfield Street, in the Liverpool Road area, and 10 huts, *i.e.*, 20 houses, in Thelwall Lane in the Latchford District.

Some of the huts are actually tenanted at the time of writing.

### **Some effects of the Rent Restriction Acts.**

As a war measure there is no doubt that the Rent Restriction Act was a necessity, but it is questionable whether its continuance on the Statute Book has not made the Housing problem much more difficult of solution than it would otherwise have been.

In the first place the general standard of all cottage property is declining owing to the inability of owners—especially the smaller property owners—to meet the cost of upkeep and repairs out of the receipts from the property. This condition of affairs is rapidly leading to the creation of new slums.

The Restriction of the amount of rent a landlord is allowed to charge has led to difficulty in another direction. Owing to the low rents of old property, it becomes impossible for the new property under Municipal Housing Schemes to be let at anything like an economic rental, and the community has to pay the difference.

It is said that it is unfair that the discharged Service man, who is the greatest sufferer from housing shortage, should have to pay more rent to get a house than the man who stayed at home. The unfairness lies in the fact that all along the latter has not had to pay a proper rent for the house he has been occupying.

Had economic conditions had free play, private enterprise would probably have provided most of the houses that were needed if labour and materials had been forthcoming. Higher rents all round would have led to higher assessments and, therefore, lower rates, whereas at present the rates on the new houses are higher than they would otherwise have been.

There does not seem to be any more reason for keeping rents low and throwing the cost of housing on to the ratepayer and taxpayer than the cost of other commodities such as food and clothing.

Many individuals in this country have money in mortgage in property. They have been very hard hit by the restriction which prevented them either recovering their capital and re-investing in something more lucrative or alternatively of raising the interest. This has been a very serious handicap to many families, and one cannot help thinking that in a large measure this has detracted from the popularity of Housing Bonds, thousands of people having determined that once they got clear of it never again would they lend money on property.

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## VII. Appendices.

### Statistics for 12 months ended 31/12/19.

- (1). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which complaints were made by householders that they were unfit for human habitation.—None.
- (2). No action taken under Section 17 of Housing Act, 1909.
- (3). No action taken under Section 28 of Housing Act, 1919.
- (4). Closing Orders.  
No representations were made to the Local Authority and no closing orders were made.
- (5). No demolition orders were made.
- (6). No dwelling-houses were demolished.
- (7). No buildings were dealt with as being obstructive (Section 38 Housing Acts).

Although no action was taken under the above Sections of the Housing Acts, various improvements in housing conditions were obtained under the Public Health Acts (see page 6).

Further, a very large amount of work was done by the Inspectors in drawing up lists of all the insanitary property in the town, both for our own purposes at the beginning of the year in order to estimate the actual housing shortage, and again later on in order to complete the "Form of Survey of Housing Needs," for the Ministry of Health in October, 1919.

- (8). Staff engaged in housing work.

The following members of the Staff of the Health Department have duties in connection with Housing:—

Chief Inspector. Deals with closing and demolition orders under Section 17.

One Inspector, whose whole time is devoted to house-to-house inspection, obtaining particulars of unhealthy areas and interviewing applicants for new houses.

Two District Inspectors, whose chief work is a survey of property for matters under the P.H.A. Acts, and who are responsible for seeing nuisances are abated.



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

.. OF THE ..

**Medical Officer of Health**

... FOR THE ...

**Rural District of Warrington**

**For 1919**

ALSO

**The ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**Sanitary Inspector.**



*To the Chairman and Members of the Warrington  
Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1919. I have endeavoured to conform to the Memorandum, as to its contents and arrangement, issued by the Ministry of Health.

Two estimates of the population of the District have been furnished by the Registrar-General, viz., for estimating the Death-rate 11,164 and the Birth-rate 11,630.

The survey and schemes under the Housing, &c., Act, 1919, was completed and adopted at a Meeting of the Council on the 15th October, 1919, and I have included both in this Report.

No action has yet been taken with regard to the closure of any houses because accommodation cannot be found either in the District or adjoining Districts for the persons affected, and there is still great difficulty in getting ordinary defects in dwellings remedied owing to the shortage of labour in some of the Townships, and also, perhaps more especially, to the very heavy expense that owners of property would incur.

The only building of houses commenced since the War began has occurred in Penketh, where six ferro-concrete houses are being erected by private persons.

The Report of your Inspector, Mr. Kerfoot, whose valuable assistance I wish to acknowledge, is included in the Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. A. MURRAY,  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



Death Rate 11164

Population, Census 1911. 13747.      1919 Birth Rate 11630      Acreage 19355.

The district is situated on the Northern side of the River Mersey is mostly flat with a subsoil of clay in the Western portion and some moss land in the Eastern. The district is bounded in the South by the River Mersey and Warrington County Borough—in the West by Widnes Borough, Whiston R.D.C. and St. Helens—in the North by Newton U.D.C. and Leigh R.D.C. and in the East by Leigh R.D.C. and Irlam U.D.C. From East to West it is about 12 miles across and from South to North about 5 miles.

The Industries in the district are Farming, Coal Mining, Chemical, Lead manufacture, Wire drawing, Agriculture and others such as cycle, motor, tool making &c.

It has not been found that any particular occupation has had any definite influence on the health of the inhabitants employed therein.

Total number of deaths registered in the district	...	...	...	246
Deduct deaths in the Lord Derby War Hospital	...	...	94	
"    "    Sankey Sanatorium	...	...	10	
"    of other non-residents	...	...	15	
			<u>119</u>	
Nett deaths of residents registered in the district	...	...	...	127
Add transferable deaths (i.e. residents dying outside the district)			...	<u>21</u>
Total deaths belonging to the district	...	...	...	<u>148</u>

The 119 deaths of non-residents belonged to the Registration district of

								Males	Females.
1. Winwick	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	98	4
2. Sankey	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	10	7
								<u>108</u>	<u>11</u>

The 21 deaths of residents dying outside the district belonged to the Registration district of

								Males	Females.
1. Winwick	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	6
2. Sankey	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	2
								<u>13</u>	<u>8</u>

#### Total Births

				Males.	Females.
				115	106
Legitimate	...	...		110	101
Illegitimate	...	...		5	5
Total Births	...			221	

Excess of Births over Deaths...      ...      73

#### Notification of Births Acts.

During the year notifications have been received as follows:—Sankey, 117. Winwick, 122. Total, 239. 14 notifications were of still births.

6 of the notifications in the Winwick district were not sent in until enquiries were made after receipt of registrar's returns.

Copies have been regularly sent each week to the County Medical Officer of Health.

## Deaths Registered in the Registration Districts of

	WINWICK.				SANKEY.				TOTAL.			
		Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.			Males.	Females.		
Influenza ...	...	4	...	5	...	8	...	2	...	12	...	7
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	2	...	4	...	2	...	3	...	4	...	7
Other Tuberculous diseases	...	—	...	—	...	2	...	2	...	2	...	2
Cancer, Malignant disease	...	3	...	3	...	—	...	1	...	3	...	4
Rheumatic Fever...	...	1	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—
Meningitis	...	2	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	3	...	—
Organic Heart Disease	...	—	...	2	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	4
Bronchitis	...	3	...	3	...	4	...	3	...	7	...	6
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	4	...	5	...	7	...	3	...	11	...	8
Other Respiratory diseases	...	1	...	—	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver ..	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	1
Nephritis & Bright's Disease	...	1	...	—	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	1
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever...	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	1
Congenital Debility, &c.	...	2	...	2	...	2	...	1	...	4	...	3
Violence, apart from Suicide	...	4	...	3	...	2	...	1	...	6	...	4
Suicide ...	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	1	...	—
Other defined cause	...	7	...	9	...	14	...	9	...	21	...	11
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	1	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—
	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
TOTAL	...	35	...	36	...	46	...	21	...	81	...	67



**List of Causes of Death issued by the Registrar-General  
(Civilians only).**

ALL CAUSES.						MALES.	FEMALES.
1.	Enteric Fever...	...	...	...	...	—	—
2.	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Scarlet Fever...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping-cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Diphtheria and Croup	..	..	...	...	—	—
7.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	12	7
8.	Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	4	7
10.	Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
11.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	2	2
12.	Cancer, Malignant disease...	...	...	...	...	3	4
13.	Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	1	—
14.	Meningitis	...	...	...	...	3	—
15.	Organic Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	1	4
16.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	7	6
17.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	11	8
18.	Other Respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	2	1
19.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	—	—
20.	Appendicitis and Typhlytis	...	...	...	...	—	—
21.	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	—	1
21a.	Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	—	—
22.	Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	...	...	2	1
23.	Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
24.	Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	1
25.	Congenital Debility, &c.	...	...	...	...	4	3
26.	Violence, apart from Suicide	...	...	...	...	6	4
27.	Suicide ..	...	...	...	...	1	—
28.	Other defined diseases	...	..	...	...	21	18
29.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	1	—
TOTAL						81	67
Deaths of Infants under one year						8	11
Illegitimate						3	1

Table III.—Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1919.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.								Total Deaths in Public Institution
	All Ages	Under 1 Year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards.
All causes { Certified ... Uncertified	146	21	1	5	4	13	27	33	42
	2		1				1		
Enteric Fever ...	...								
Small-pox ...	...								
Measles ...	...								
Scarlet Fever ...	...								
Whooping-cough ...	...								
Diphtheria & Croup ...	...								
Influenza ...	19				1	4	6	5	3
Erysipelas ...	...								
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	11			1		2	5	3	
Tuberculous Meningitis									
Other tuberculous diseases ...	4	3		1					
Cancer, malignant diseases	7								1





## 21 Deaths outside the District of persons belonging to the District.

## SANKEY—

M.	Age.	1 Mnth.	Infirmery, Warrington.
M.	„	64	Whitecross Hospital. Warrington.
F.	„	70	„ „
M.	„	67	99 Guardian Street, Warrington.
M.	„	78	Union Infirmery, Warrington.
F.	„	58	Workhouse Infirmery, Whiston.
M.	„	47	County Lunatic Asylum, St. Helens.
M.	„	21	Royal Infirmery, Bristol.
M.	„	71	Lodge Lane. Warrington.
M.	„	13	12 Rylands Street, Warrington.

## WINWICK—

M.	„	37	The Infirmery, Warrington.
M.	„	47	„ „ „
M.	„	42	„ „ „
F.	„	40	County Lunatic Asylum, St. Helens.
M.	„	47	„ „ „
F.	„	54	Whitecross Hospital, Warrington.
F.	„	67	Home for Incurables, Toxteth Park.
F.	„	4	Isolation Hospital, Warrington.
F.	„	39	Sanatorium, Heath Charnock.
F.	„	65	Albert Terrace, Blackpool.
M.	„	38	Halewood Sidings, Halewood.

## DEATHS IN INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

## SANKEY SANATORIUM

6 MALES.

4 FEMALES.

ages from	15—25	1	5—15	1
	25—45	1	20—45	3
	45—65	4		

## COTTAGE HOMES.

MALES 6

FEMALES 3.

Age.	Cause of Death
2½ yrs.	Takes Mesenterica.
8 mnths.	Marasmus.
1 mnth.	Convulsions.
3 Mnths	Takes Mesenterica.
4 Mnths.	Acute Meningitis.
1 year.	Marasmus.

Age.	Cause of Death.
12 yrs.	Gastric Ulcer Hæmatemesis.
10 mnths.	Tuberculosis (general).
3 mnths.	Takes Mesenterica.

One death of a Male was transferred from this district.

## LORD DERBY WAR HOSPITAL.

Gunshot Wounds ...	...	...	3
Cancer ...	...	...	8
General Paralysis of the Insane.	18		
Nephritis ...	...	...	3
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	1
Pneumonia ...	...	...	6
Gas Shell ...	...	...	1
Cardiac Disease ...	...	...	8
Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	...	...	6
Mental Disease ...	...	...	5
Influenza ...	...	...	15
Other Diseases ...	...	...	18
Violence ...	...	...	2

---

94

---

## AGES OF MORTALITY.

Between	15—25	...	12
	25—45	...	66
	45—65	...	15
	65 & upwards		1

---

Total 94

---

Two inquests.

1. Verdict thrown from a horse—  
Misadventure.
2. Run over by Motor Lorry—  
Misadventure.



## DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR. 18.

	SANKEY		WINWICK.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Premature Birth ... ..	1	1	1	2
Bronchial Pneumonia .. ...		3		
Acute gastritis... ..		1		
Marasmus ... ..	1			
Convulsions ... ..			2	1
Abdominal Tuberculosis ... ..			1	1
General Tuberculosis... ..				1
Congenital Malformations ... ..			1	
Acute Meningitis .. ...			1	
Lack of care ... ..				1
	—	—	—	—
	2	5	6	6

## Ages of Mortality :

Under one Week.	Weeks. 1—2	Weeks. 2—3	Weeks. 3—4	Total under 1 Month.	Months. 1—3	Months. 3—6	Months. 6—9	Months. 9—12	Total under 1 year.
8	1	—	—	9	3	3	3	1	19

There were two inquests in the Winwick district on newborn children—verdicts as follows:—I. Found dead in a pit. Hæmorrhage due to inattention at Birth. II. Asphyxia from strangulation. Wilful murder. (The latter death did not belong to this district.)

## INQUESTS.—Held in the District on Persons belonging to the District.

## WINWICK.

F.—Unknown, newly-born, found dead in a pit. Hæmorrhage, due to inattention at birth.  
F., age 8.—Killed by motor. Misadventure.  
M., „ 58.—Found drowned.  
F., „ 32.—Drowned. Misadventure.

## SANKEY.

F., age 4.—Burns. Misadventure.  
M., „ 45.—Unknown. Found drowned.

## Held outside the District on Persons belonging to the District.

M., age 47.—Ran into motor-car. Misadventure.  
M., „ 37.—Revolver wound in head. Misadventure.  
M., „ 38.—Knocked down by train. Misadventure.  
F., „ 4.—Burns. Misadventure.

M., age 24.—Fall, fracture of skull and other injuries. Misadventure.  
M., „ 67.—Cut his throat. Suicide; unsound mind.

## Held in the District on Persons not belonging to the District.

M., age 21.—Injuries, thrown from a horse. Misadventure.  
M., „ 45.—Injuries from motor-van. Misadventure.  
M., „ 42.—Run into by motor-lorry. Misadventure.  
F., „ 21.—Found drowned. Suicide; unsound mind.  
F., „ 30.—Suicide. Carbolic acid poisoning.  
F., newly-born.—Asphyxia from strangulation. Wilful murder.

M., age 51.—Found drowned.  
M., „ 8.—Drowned. Misadventure.  
M., „ 26.—Fall of colliery roof. Misadventure.

### Birth and Death Rates of the District per 1,000 of Population.

				Birth-rate.		Death-rate.		Epidemic Death-rate.		Phthisis Death-rate.		Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births.
1919	...	...	...	19'0	...	13'2	...	Nil.	...	0'98	...	85
1918	...	...	...	17'8	...	16'4	...	1'78	...	0'94	...	94
Mean of 10 years,												
	1909—1918	...		21'2	...	12'8	...	1'16	...	1'03	...	94
Increase or Decrease												
in 1919 on												
Previous year	...			+ 1'2	...	—3'2	...	—1'78	...	+ 0'04	...	—9
Ten years' average...				—2'2	...	+ 0'4	.	—1'16	...	—0'05	...	—9

### The Death-rate from

Bronchitis	...	...	...	13	will equal	1'1	per 1,000 of population.
Pneumonia	...	...	...	19	„	1'7	„ „ „ „
Violence	...	...	...	10	„	.89	„ „ „ „
Inquest cases	...	...	...	12	„	1'07	„ „ „ „
Other Tuberculous diseases				4	„	'35	„ „ „ „
Cancer, malignant disease...				7	„	'62	„ „ „ „
Diarrhoea under 2 years	...			Nil.			

### Birth and Death Rates for the last 10 years.

	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
DEATH...	10'9	10'7	11'4	9'3	8'6	14'3	10'9	12'8	16'4	13'2
BIRTH...	21'1	17'6	19'7	18'8	19'7	19'3	22'6	17'8	17'8	19'0

### Epidemic Death-rate for the last 10 years.

1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
'5	1'2	1'1	1'8	'8	1'2	'47	'74	1'78	Nil.



Table XV.—Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1919.

(Provisional figures). Populations estimated to the middle of 1919 have been used for the purpose of this Table.

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Popula- tion.	Annual Death-rate per 1,000. Civilian population.								Rate per 1,000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths.*			
		All causes.	Enteric Fever	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under One year.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Certified cases.	Inquest cases	Uncertified cases of Deaths.
England and Wales ... ..	18.5	13.8	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.03	0.07	0.13	0.47	9.59	89	23.9	92.5	6.2	1.3
96 Great Towns, including London... .. (Census populations exceeding 50,000)	19.0	13.8	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.04	0.07	0.14	0.45	12.24	93	29.2	92.3	6.9	0.8
149 Smaller Towns ... .. (Census populations, 20,000—50,000)	18.3	12.6	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.03	0.08	0.12	0.39	8.67	90	16.6	93.6	4.9	1.5
London ... ..	18.3	13.4	0.61	0.00	0.08	0.63	0.05	0.18	0.47	16.22	85	44.7	91.2	8.9	0.2

\* Non-Civilians are included in these figures for England and Wales, but not for other areas.

The Clerk to the Warrington Union informs me that the amount of out-door relief granted in this area during 1919 amounted to £673 6s. 2d.

Hospital and other forms of gratuitous relief are freely utilised both for accidents and other medical and surgical cases.

The Institutions utilised are the Infirmary and Whitecross Hospital, Warrington, and the St. Helens Accident Hospital.

Some cases are treated in hospitals in Manchester and Liverpool.

Definite details as to the number of cases are not available.

## WATER.

In the greater portion of the district the water supply is sufficient and the quality good.

The Corporation of Warrington through the Water Company which they took over has statutory powers to supply the greater portion of the district and in seven Townships there is a constant supply from this source. The number of houses thus supplied varies according to the population—in the more populated portions the majority of the houses are supplied—the township is supplied partly by Widnes Corporation (under similar conditions) and partly by the Liverpool Corporation by arrangement with the Widnes Corporation from one central tap.

The rest of the district obtains its supply from wells. Frequent samples are taken from these wells, chemical examinations made, and if any contamination is found measures are taken to remedy the cause. In the townships where it is possible to replace the well supply with that of the constant supply this is always done.

The well waters of the district from the analysts' reports show a very great degree of hardness and the contamination has been that of sewage or failure to clean out the well for a number of years and prevent the introduction of surface water.

Extensions of the water supply in the townships of Sankey and Riston have been under consideration and estimates for the work obtained, but at the present time the enormous increase in the cost of carrying out the work is prohibitive.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The portion of the River Mersey flowing through the district is tidal. The sources of pollution of streams in the district is from houses and industries.

The industries which cause most pollution are the tanneries and a Brewery.

At the tanneries schemes have been arranged to prevent the effluents from carrying solid matter to the streams or river. The effluents are pumped up into large settling beds and the water finds its way through a bed of cinders to the drains or streams. One tannery is so situated that the bulk of the water from the lime settling beds is carried in quite a different direction (to the River Mersey) from that from the tanyard and so there is considerably less precipitation than if the two effluents were carried away together.

Through colliery workings the stream in the neighbourhood of the Brewery has subsided causing pools in its course, but by an elaborate system of settling tanks and filter beds a very small proportion of the washings from the barrels reaches the stream. This system is continually being altered by the Company with a view to improvement.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

One township (Penketh) has a sewerage scheme falling into the tidal portion of the River Mersey. So far this scheme has been satisfactory.

In another township the main portion has a scheme of sewerage which is carried through precipitation tanks before being discharged into a stream. This has up to the present been sufficient for the portion of the district.

In other parts of the area most of the drainage and sewage eventually finds its way into streams. In these cases an attempt is made to minimise pollution by the use of septic



tanks either from single houses or from a number collected into one common sewer. These drains and sewers are whenever practicable so arranged that they will be available in the future when a scheme of sewerage is attempted.

All ditches etc., into which any sewage or other pollution finds its way are from time to time kept clean and free by the Council's men.

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

A statement of the number, etc., will be found on page 20.

#### SCAVENGING.

In two Townships, Sankey and Penketh the scavenging is done by the Council who employ contractors. In these townships the efficiency is good but in some of the other townships where owners and occupiers make their own arrangements the efficiency is only fair and it will probably, in the near future, be necessary for the Council to arrange for the work to be done in the same way as the two first mentioned townships.

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Your Inspector almost daily visits different parts of your district and whenever necessary I accompany him—particulars of inspections &c. will be found in his report on page 22. In response to our objection to the old railway carriages in use at Glazebrook Station the Cheshire Lines Committee have built new offices for their clerks.

Each elementary school in your district has been visited at least once during the year by myself with your inspector and all defects brought to the notice of the School Authorities. Most of these have been remedied.

The water supply to the majority of schools is good.

Elementary schools have been closed during the year as follows: in January Croft R.C. School, Sankey and Penketh Council Schools and in February Burtonwood Council School owing to epidemics of Influenza and Catarrhal affections. In May the Infants Department of Sankey Council Schools owing to an epidemic of Measles.

In some districts it has been possible to arrange for the Sunday Schools to be closed during the same period.

The milk supply of the district is fairly good and the adequacy of the arrangements for the supply and distribution is very good as it is delivered direct from the farmer.

It has not been found necessary to take any action as to Tuberculous milk.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order 1918. The Council decided to take action under this order and a few cases were given milk but now it is intended to co-operate with the County whenever any cases come before our notice.

The premises where goods are manufactured, prepared, stored or exposed for sale are regularly inspected but it has not been necessary to take any action to deal with insanitary conditions. The bakehouses and condition of the slaughter houses is

There is no public abattoir in the district and the two slaughter houses are visited by the Inspector practically each week at the time of slaughtering.

The prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases has not during the past year assumed any serious proportion except that of measles. In several portions of the district epidemics of measles have occurred and schools have been closed.

Diphtheria antitoxin is provided for the use of medical practitioners and stocks are kept for prompt use in different parts of the area.

No cases of encephalitis lethargica--dysentery or Trench Fever have been notified and all the cases of Malaria notified have been investigated and have been found to have been contracted abroad while the person was serving in the Army.

Bacteriological aids to diagnosis are utilised whenever a request is received from any medical practitioner in attendance in a case and in cases where there is any cause to consider a case may be a carrier or contact.

Disinfection and cleansing of houses or rooms is carried out in all cases where Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Tuberculosis have occurred and occasionally in other infectious diseases cases. Bedding &c. is sent to the respective fever hospitals for disinfection.

The first case of Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria occurring in a house is usually removed to hospital especially if there is no proper isolation available.

Intimations of notifiable and non-notifiable diseases received from the school authorities are utilised more especially with regard to school closure with a view to checking the spread of infection. During the epidemic of influenza the district was well circularised with notices cautioning and giving preventative information. The deaths from Influenza occurred as follows :—

						Males	Females
Winwick	...	...	...	...	...	4	5
Sankey	..	...	...	...	...	8	2
						<hr/>	<hr/>
						12	7

Total 19 = a rate per 1000 of 1·7.

## PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS & OTHER TUBERCULOUS DISEASES.

The deaths from these diseases occurred as follows :—

					Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		Other Tuberculous diseases.	
					Males	Females	Males	Females
Winwick	...	...	...	...	2	4	2	2
Sankey	...	...	...	...	2	3		none
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
					4	7	2	2

Total number of deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis, 15. One death occurred outside the district in the Asylum, St, Helens. The deaths (4) from other Tuberculous diseases occurred in The Cottage Homes, Padgate.

In these 5 cases no notifications can be traced.

Of the other deaths

2 occurred 4 months after notification.

2	„	3	„	„	„	
2	„	2	„	„	„	(one was notified as acute)
3	„	1	„	„	„	(one was notified as acute)

## SMALL-POX.

It has not been necessary for any action to be taken under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations 1917. No case has occurred in the district or as far as is known in the vicinity.

There have been no cases of rabies or anthrax.

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There were two cases notified and in both cases no permanent injury was caused to either eye.







Table giving the Notifications of Infectious Diseases, &c., for each month and Number of Cases in each Registration District.

	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Measles.	Ophthalmia nematorum.	Influenza and Pneumonia.	Malaria.	TUBERCULOSIS.	
								Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
January ...			3	2					I
February ...	I								
March...			9	6	I	20	I	4	
April ...	I		8	30		4	I	3	I
May ...			2	57		2	I	2	
June ...		I	I	22		3			
July ...			I	5		I	3		
August ...	I		I				I	I	
September ...		I	I	3	I	I		I	2
October ...	I			2		2	I	I	
November ...	3		2	3		4			2
December ...	I	2				4	I	I	
	8	4	28	131	2	41	9	13	6
WINWICK ...	I	2	10	62		22	5	8	2
SANKEY ...	7	2	18	69	2	19	4	5	4
	8	4	28	131	2	41	9	13	6

## Ages of Cases of Notified Infectious Diseases.

WINWICK.	under 1 year.	1—5.	5—15.	15—25.	25—45.	45—65.	65 and upwards.				
Measles ...	...	21	...	37	...	3	...	1	...	...	62
Scarlet Fever I	...		...	7	...	2	...		...	...	10
Diphtheria ...	...	1	...		...		...		...	...	1
Erysipelas ...	...		...		...		...	2	...	...	2
Malaria ...	...		...		1	...	4	..	...	...	5
Tuberculosis	...		...	3	...		5	...	2	...	10

### SANKEY.

Measles ...	...	28	...	40	...	1	...	...	...	...	69
Scarlet Fever	...	3	...	12	...	3	...	...	...	...	18
Diphtheria ... I	...	1	...	2	...	2	...	1	...	...	7
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
Malaria ...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	4
Tuberculosis	...	3	...	1	...	3	...	1	...	1	9

### SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

1. STAFF. The Sanitary Inspector carries out the duties of Inspector of Nuisances, of Canal Boats, of Houses under the Housing Acts, 1890 and 1909, of Dairies and Cowsheds, and other work, including disinfection, &c., of houses after the occurrence of infectious diseases.
2. The Fever Hospitals of the Warrington County Borough and Newton-in-Makerfield Urban District are available for Infectious diseases. At the present time no arrangements have been made for Hospital accommodation for small pox cases.
3. No Local Acts nor special Local Orders are in force in the District. The Council have in force Sections 15, 16, 17, 23 and 33 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1907, and the Infectious Diseases (Notification and Prevention) Acts, 1884 and 1890.
4. Chemical examination of water, &c., is performed by the Analyst to the County Council. By arrangement with the Medical Officer of Health of the County Borough of Warrington, examination of material for the detection of tubercle bacilli and diphtheria is carried out at the Council's Laboratory. Three examinations of sputum were made and no tubercle bacilli found. Four examinations of swabs from cases of Diphtheria were made and one gave a positive result.

If any occasion arises for any other material to be examined, it is sent to the Laboratory of the Manchester University.

Other matters of sanitary administration will be found in the following Copy of the Summary prepared and forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health.



# SUMMARY OF MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1919.

## RURAL DISTRICT OF WARRINGTON.

Medical Officer of Health - - T. A. MURRAY.  
Inspector of Nuisances - - FRANK W. KERFOOT.

Is the Medical Officer of Health or Inspector of Nuisances away on Military Service?  
No.

What is the character of the Hospital Accommodation? For Small-pox, none. For other Infectious Diseases: Warrington and Newton Hospitals.

Is it joint or otherwise? Otherwise.

No. of Beds available for your district? For Small-pox, none. For other Infectious Diseases. As required.

How is Disinfection carried out? No. of Houses disinfected? 30. Method? Sharratts' Formalide Fumigators. Are Houses disinfected after (a) Phthisis? Yes. (b) Measles? Sometimes. Apparatus used for Clothing, Bedding, &c. (steam or otherwise)? Washington Lyon Steam Disinfector. No. of Articles disinfected? No record kept. Where is apparatus situated? Warrington Hospital.

If Apparatus at Hospital is available, is it used for the disinfection of Clothing, Bedding, &c., of Patients *not* removed to the Hospital? Yes.

If not, please state how disinfection of Clothing, &c., in these cases is carried out? Fumigation of rooms.

Are any Diseases not specifically mentioned in the Infectious Diseases Notification Act notifiable (for instance, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea, Chicken Pox, &c.)? No.

Diseases specially prevalent? Influenza, Measles and Scarlet Fever. Period? March, April and May.

No. of times School Closure adopted? 5. For what disease? Measles and Influenza.

No. of Special reports made under Art. XIX. (15 and 16) Sanitary Officers' Order, 1910? None.

Bacteriological Examinations. Specimens examined: Blood, none; Swabs, 4 (1 positive); Sputum 3 (negative); Milk, nil; Others, none.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin Order, 1910. Is a supply of Anti-toxin kept *within* the district? Yes. If so, where? At Office and 3 Surgeries.

Amount used during 1919? About one dozen.

"The Housing Acts, 1890 to 1919."

Has your Authority determined the procedure to be adopted for the inspection of your District as required by Article I. of the Regulations of 2nd Sept., 1910? Yes.

Has your Authority prepared, as required by Article I. (3) a list of dwelling-houses, the "early inspection of which is, in the opinion of the M.O.H., desirable"? Yes.

Has your Authority designated an officer to undertake the special inspection of houses and to keep the records stipulated by Articles (II.) and (III.)? Yes.

What officer has been so designated? Inspector.

Have the necessary books, forms, &c., for keeping the required records been obtained and maintained? Yes.



Action taken in 1919 under the Housing Acts :—

*Total* No. of dwelling-houses inspected for purposes of the Housing Acts. (*Not* including inspections *re* Nuisances, &c.? None.

No. of Dwelling-houses specially inspected under Section 17 of the Act of 1909, i.e., with a view to ascertaining whether any dwelling-houses are unfit for human habitation? None.

No. of Dwelling-houses considered unfit for human habitation? None.

„ Representations to to Authority with a view to making Closing Orders? None.

„ Closing Orders made? None.

„ Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied without making Closing Orders (under Section 15)? None.

„ Dwelling-houses demolished? None.

Is there a deficiency of housing accommodation? If so, where, and to what extent?  
Yes. Practically throughout the district.

Has a Housing Committee been appointed, as suggested in Memorandum of Ministry of Health, 7th August, 1919? Yes.

Are steps being taken under the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919, to meet the deficiency? Yes.

What stage had been reached in this connection on 31st December, 1919? Scheme has been submitted to the Housing Commissioner.

Number of New Houses built during 1919? By and at the cost of the District Council? None. By private enterprise? None.

Source of Water Supply? Warrington Corporation. What is its condition? Good. Possibilities of contamination? None. Any insufficiency, and where? Part of Cuerdley and Rixton. Nature of extensions (if any) during the year? None—Some under consideration.

Is Scavenging and Removal of House Refuse carried out satisfactorily for whole of district? Yes.

How performed (state whether by Sanitary Authority, Contract, or Occupiers of Houses)? By Contract in Penketh and Sankey and by owners and occupiers in other parts of the district.

If Privy Middens exist, are they emptied by day or night? Day.

How is the Refuse disposed of? Used on agricultural land.

Has a Destructor been provided? No.

Sewage Disposal Works. Method of Treatment? Precipitation in tanks at Burtonwood. What is the character of the Drainage System? Any developments during year? Socket pipes.

Areas or Townships without proper drainage system? Poulton-with-Fearnhead.

Action taken—Drain Testing, Flushing, &c.? Carried out by Inspector.

Action taken with regard to the Pollution of Streams? None. Ditches cleaned out by Council's workmen.

Canal Boats: Number Inspected? 2. Number of Infringements of Acts? 1.

What is the condition of the Bakehouses? Good. No? 3.

What is the condition of the Slaughter-houses? Fairly good. No? 2. No. Registered? None. No. Licensed? None. Has a Public Abattoir been provided? No.

What is the condition of the Lodging-houses? None in district.

What is the Sanitary condition of the Schools? Good.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops—Are they periodically inspected? Yes. What is their condition? Fairly good.

Have Regulations been made under the Order of the L.G.B.? Yes. Are they enforced? Yes.

Amount of air space in cubic feet required for each cow? (a) Where cows are habitually grazed (b) where cows are *not* habitually? No regulation in force as to amount of air space.

Cowkeepers. Total No. of Cowkeepers? 53. No. on Register? 53. No. of Inspections during year? 159. Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers)? Total No. of Dairymen or Milk Purveyors? 8. No. on Register? 8.

Any arrangements for veterinary inspection of dairy cows? No.

Action taken (if any) as to tuberculous milk? None.

Inspection of Food—Amount condemned or surrendered as unfit for human consumption—(a) Tuberculous carcasses and parts? (a) None. (b) Diseased, unsound, or unwholesome meat (other than above)? (b) None. (c) Other food stuffs? (c) none. No. of Legal Proceedings and result? Nil.

Department of inspector of Nuisances. No. of Notices served? Informal, 85; Statutory, 56. No. of Nuisances abated? 272. No. of Legal Proceedings taken, and result? None.

Closets and Ashpits. Privy Middens:—No of Middens? 621. No. of Closets attached to these Middens? 621. No. of Pail Closets? 1761. No. of Ashpits (excluding Middens)? 400 approximately. No. of Fresh Water Closets? 440. No. of Portable Receptacles for Refuse? Half No. of pail closets. No. of Waste Water Closets? 13. No. of Privy Closets converted during 1919? To Fresh W.C.'s, none. To Waste W.C.'s. None. To Pail's, &c., 7. No. of Pail Closets converted to Fresh W.C.'s. None. Waste W.C.'s. None. No. of Waste W.C.'s converted to Fresh W.C.'s? None. Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion? No. What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for *new* property? Water closets and pails.

Smoke. No. of Observations? Nil. No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result? None. What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour? 10 Minutes.

Has the Authority adopted—"The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1890"? Yes "The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890"? No. "The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907"? Sections, 15, 16, 17, 23, 33.

Has a Health Visitor been appointed by the Local Council? State whether whole or part time? Carried out by Inspector.

Qualifications of Health Visitor? None. Has any, and if so what, action been taken by the Council respecting Child Welfare Work? Nil.

Has any scheme been prepared in regard to Supply of Food and Milk for Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and or Milk for Infants? Yes. Health Officers instructed to supply.



Is there a District Nursing Association in the District? No. If so, does any arrangement exist between the Council and the Association in respect of Child Welfare Work? Nil. If no such arrangement exists, does the Association voluntarily undertake Child Welfare Work? Nil.

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1919? Improvements at Burtonwood Brewery Sewerage Scheme. New Offices for Clerks at Glazebrook Station.

Chief Sanitary requirements of District? Better sewerage in some parts of district.

## HOUSING.

The survey of Housing needs and scheme for the provision of new houses in the following pages gives the minimum (so far as can be ascertained) requirements of the District and the causes of the shortage of houses.

The general standard of houses erected for some years is good, but the standard of the older houses is not good. The general character of the defects are due in the older houses to the want of damp-proof courses and in some to a condition of general dilapidation due to age.

No action has been taken during the War under the Housing Acts, but under the Public Health Acts action has been taken with respect to general defects.

The present By-laws relating to houses, &c, are carried out satisfactorily without any difficulty.

No complaints were made during the year (a) by householders, (b) by Parish Councils, of any dwelling being unfit for human habitation.

Staff engaged in Housing work: Medical Officer of Health, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor. No definite duties are set out, but the three officials named act in co-operation, so that the work is carried on as by a single unit.



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[illegible]

... ..

1915. — *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

and  $\alpha = 0.05$  (df=10).

25th May 1952

June 19 (F)

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1919 for the

**RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WARRINGTON**

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

**FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES & HOMEWORK.**

1—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	60	None.	None.
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	77	None.	None.
Workplaces (other than outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report) ...			
Total ... ..	137	None.	None.

2—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.</i>				
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	2	2	None.	None.
Sanitary Accommodation not separate for sexes.				
Total ... ..	2	2	None.	None.

3—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	Lists received from Employers.	Outwork in unwholesome premises. Sec. 108	Outwork in infected premises, Sec. 109, 110
Wearing apparel : Making ...	None.	2	4
File making ... ..			2
Total ... ..	None.	2	6

OTHER CASES.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories ... ..	0
Failure to affix Abstract of the Workshop and Factory Act (s 133) ... ..	0
Workshops on the Register at the end of the year ... ..	29



*To the Chairman and Members of the Warrington  
Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have again the pleasure of presenting to you my Annual Report of Nuisances and other matters dealt with during the year 1919.

As you are aware, great difficulty has been experienced in getting Sanitary matters attended to owing to scarcity of labour and high cost of materials, and the Rent Restriction Act has also interfered with the repairs to property. A large number of inspections have been made, which include Dwelling-houses, Farms, Cowsheds, Slaughter-houses, Factories, Workshops etc. In the Burtonwood Township difficulty was experienced in getting the night-soil removed, but arrangements have been made with the property owners and the work is proceeding fairly satisfactory.

Your Council have Bye-laws respecting Common Lodging-houses and Offensive Trades, but at the present time there are none of the former on the register and no offensive trades have been established since the bye-laws were made.

The number of informal notices served for the abatement of nuisances were 85, statutory 56, nuisances abated 272.

The approximate number of privy middens are 621, closets attached to these middens 621, pail closets 1761, ash-pits in connection therewith 400, fresh water closets 440, number of waste water closets 13. The number of privy closets converted during 1910 to pail closets 7.

Houses disinfected 30, bedding removed to Warrington for disinfection 5.

Samples of water submitted for analysis 9 Good and fit for domestic use 3, unfit 2, water very hard and unsafe for drinking 4.

### DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILK SHOPS ORDER.

The number of Cow keepers on the Register are 53, Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk 8. Many inspections have been made and on the whole the cowsheds are kept fairly clean. There is still room for improvement with regard to the grooming of the cows.

### CANAL BOATS ACT.

During the War the number of boats plying on the Sankey Canal was gradually diminished in each year. I have previously reported the coal trade to be entirely gone, and boats carrying offensive cargoes from the Birkenhead Lairage, formerly a considerable number, also practically disappeared. There are a few boats carrying sugar to Earlestown, most of them being registered under the Merchant Shipping Act. Only two boats were inspected, the lowest number on record. They were registered for 6 persons and the numbers found totalled: Males 2, females 1, children 2. In one case the certificate of registration was not produced, but in other respects the boats were quite in order.

FRANK W. KERFOOT,  
INSPECTOR.

# HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, &c. ACT, 1919.

## Section I.—Prevailing Conditions Affecting Shortage of Houses.

### Industries.

1. Particulars as to the staple industries of the district (or of any parish or part of the district).

Penketh --Large Tannery, Leather Cutting Works, Chemical Works, Ship-building Yard (Concrete.)

Burtonwood—Colliery, Brewery.

Sankey -- Wire Works, Lead Works.

Winwick —Two Tanneries.

Woolston —One Tannery.

Poulton —A Bone, Glue and Chemical Works.

The other Townships and also the above are agricultural.

2. Particulars of any anticipated industrial development.

New works are expected to be built at Penketh and Rixton as land has, it is reported, been purchased but as yet no definite information is available.

3. Particulars of any considerable reduction which may be anticipated in the number of persons employed in any industry in the district.

In the Township of Burtonwood there is only one Colliery (which is now practically exhausted) employing on September 1st, 1919, only 403 persons of both sexes. Many of the colliers living in the township are employed at other collieries (one belonging to the same owners) in the Whiston R.D.C. area, a short distance from where they are at present housed.

### Population.

4. Pre-war population (1914) .. .. .	12189
5. Average annual increase of population for the five years before the war -- .. .	120
6. Estimated present population ... .. .	10629 per death rate Reg. General
7. Anticipated increase or decrease of working-class population due to industrial changes	Uncertain.

### Existing Housing Accommodation.

8. Number of dwelling-houses in the district ...	2591
9. Number of working-class houses of the types given in reply to question 15 ... .. .	2074 not over £16.
10. Average number of working-class houses built annually during the five years before the war	51
11. Number of working-class houses built between January 1st, 1915 and December 31st, 1918	24
12. Number of empty buildings which might be (a) made suitable, by repairs or alterations, for housing the working classes; or (b) converted into flats for the working-classes ...	(a) Nil. (b) Nil.



## Overcrowding.

	Total number of Occupiers ... ..	
13.	Tenements with more than two occupants per room :—	
	Number of Tenements ... ..	Nil.
14.	Number of houses intended for one family only which are now occupied (without having been specially adapted) by two or more families ... ..	131

## Rents.

15. Particulars of prevailing rents of the various types of working-class houses in the district :—

	TYPE OF HOUSE.	WEEKLY RENT.
(a)	Houses with Living Room, Scullery and two bedrooms ..	2/6 to 3/-
(b)	Living Room, Scullery and three bedrooms ... ..	3/- to 3/6
(c)	Parlour, Living Room, Scullery and two bedrooms ...	3/- to 5/6
(d)	Parlour, Living Room, Scullery and three bedrooms ...	3/- to 6/-
(e)	Parlour, Living Room, Scullery and four bedrooms ...	No working-class.
(f)	Tenements in block buildings ... ..	Nil.
(g)	Other working-class dwellings .. ...	A few wooden dwellings occupied by small farmers. 3/- to 5/-

## Section II.—Estimate of Housing Needs.

1. Working-class houses required during the next three years to

(a)	Meet the unsatisfied demand for houses (taking account of growth of population, overcrowding, etc.) ...	76
(b)	Re-house persons to be displaced by the clearance of unhealthy areas ... ..	Nil.
(c)	Replace other dwellings which are unfit for human habitation and cannot be made fit ... ..	12
(d)	Replace obstructive or other buildings (now inhabited and not included under heading (c) which should be demolished ... ..	Nil.
(e)	Replace other houses which, although they cannot at present be regarded as unfit for human habitation, fall definitely below a reasonable standard... ..	Nil.
(f)	Meet anticipated deficiencies, e.g., arising from new industrial development .. ...	Nil.
	TOTAL ... ..	88

2. Deduct

(a)	Working class houses which it is anticipated will be set free during the next three years as the result of any probable decrease in the population ... ..	Nil.
(b)	Working-class houses likely to be built during the next three years by persons other than the Local Authority ... ..	No information.

Net Estimate of Number of Houses Required... .. 88

Details of figures given in reply to question 2(b):—

	NAME.	PLACE OR PARISH.	NUMBER OF HOUSES.
Public Utility Societies ...	Warrington Garden Suburbs Ltd.	Gt. Sankey	No information
Housing Trusts ... ..	Nil.		Nil.
Industrial Undertakings or Business Firms ...	Nil.		Nil.
Private Persons ... ..	Nil.		Nil.
Total (which should agree with the reply to question 2(b) ... ..			Nil.

**Section III.—Areas which are being, or may have to be, dealt with as unhealthy under Part I. or Part II. of the Act of 1890.**

NIL.

**Section III.—(continued).**

NIL.

**Section IV.—Insanitary Houses (other than houses in unhealthy areas of which particulars are given in Section III.)**

*Prevailing Conditions.*

(1.)	How many inhabited houses are there in the district which are not and cannot be made fit for human habitation ... ..	12
(2.)	Number of persons inhabiting these houses ...	60 (approx.)
(3.)	How many houses are already subject to	
	(a) Closing Orders? ... ..	none
	(b) Demolition Orders? ... ..	none
(4.)	How many houses are seriously defective but can be made habitable? ... ..	20

*Proposed Action.*

(5) What immediate action is contemplated by the local authority with regard to

(a) houses which are not and cannot be made fit for human habitation?

Action will be taken to make closing orders when suitable accommodation can be provided.

(b) houses which are seriously defective but can be made habitable?

Notices not being served at present owing to difficulty in getting necessary repairs carried out, but repairs affecting the health of the community are being pressed for and completed.

(6) Within what time is it contemplated that conditions will be such as to warrant the demolition of the houses which are not and cannot be made fit for human habitation?

The building trade in this district has not yet recovered its normal condition and it is impossible to forecast any period.

**Section V.**

NIL.

**Section VI.—Scheme of the Warrington Rural District Council for the provision of New Houses under Section I. of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919.**

1. Approximate number of new houses to be provided :—

(a)	Houses with Living Room, Scullery and two bedrooms ... ..	Nil
(b)	Living Room, Scullery and three bedrooms . . . . .	Nil
(c)	Parlour, Living Room, Scullery and two bedrooms ... ..	Nil



(d)	Parlour, Living Room, Scullery and three bedrooms	...	...	88
(d)	Parlour, Living Room, Scullery and four bedrooms	...	...	Nil
(e)	Parlour, Living Room, Scullery and four bedrooms	...	...	...
(f)	Block dwellings Number :—	...	...	Nil
	Number of separate tenements ..	...	...	Nil
(g)	Other dwellings (specifying type) :—	...	...	Nil
Total number of houses and separate tenements				88

2. Approximate number of existing empty houses to be acquired and :—

(i)	made suitable for housing the working classes	...	...	Nil
(ii.)	converted into flats for the working classes	...	...	Nil

Approximate number of families to be housed under (i.) & (ii.) 88

3.	Approximate acreage of land to be acquired	...	...	30
4.	Average number of houses per acre	...	...	8
5.	Approximate localities in which land is to be acquired			

Burtonwood	...	(30 houses)	<b>3</b>	Poulton	(3 houses)	<b>4</b>	Winwick-with-Orford
Sankey...	...	5	<b>4</b>	Rixton	13	<b>2</b>	Subjudice <b>3</b>
Houghton	...	1	<b>1</b>	Croft	5		
Penketh	...	25	<b>9</b>	Woolston	6	<b>2</b>	

Provision for Asylum requirements are being gone into by the Lancashire Asylums Board Committee and when their proposals are known (after the Lord Derby War Hospital closes) any balance for families desiring to remain in the district will become a parish need.

The black figures in this query shows houses proposed by the Lancashire County Council for policemen and roadmen—if these mature parish needs will be correspondingly reduced.

6. Time within which it is proposed that the scheme (or if the scheme is to be carried out by instalments, each part of the scheme) is to be carried into effect :—

It is intended to commence this scheme as soon as the Council has the Ministry's agreement therewith.

7. Particulars of any measure necessary, as part of the scheme, for the preservation of existing erections of architectural, historic or artistic interest, or for the preservation of the natural amenities of the locality. None Necessary.

8. Any other provisions (including provisions for joint action with any other Local Authority.) Nil.

9. Is it anticipated that the scheme may subsequently require to be amended? If so any relevant considerations should be stated.

No particular reasons known for any amendment unless future industrial conditions change.

The above scheme was adopted by the Warrington Rural Council at a Meeting of the Council held on the 15th October, 1919

### ADDITIONAL NOTES TO SCHEME (SECTION VI.)

Estimated increase of population since 1911.

Population 1911...	...	...	...	13747
Ration card count of townships 1919	...			
Burtonwood	...	...	...	2283
Sankey (excluding the Sanatorium)	36...	...	...	1528
Houghton	...	...	...	178

Penketh (excluding the Friends' School)	...	1703		
Poulton (,, ,, Cottage Homes)	...	1530		
Rixton ... ..	...	918		
Croft ... ..	...	843		
Woolston ... ..	...	454		
Winwick (excluding the Asylum) ..	...	1723		
Cuerdley ... ..	...	135	11295	
Sanatorium, 36; Friends' School, 132; Cottage Homes, 144; Asylum, 2500...	...		2812	14107

The estimated population 10629 given on the form of Survey is given by the Registrar General for calculating the death rate, for the birth rate he gives 11909.

Houses built since 1911, 131; houses demolished, 16; present No. 2591.

Fit empties to-day, Nil. New houses required to relieve:

(a) overcrowded houses	...	...	...	...	37
(b) two families in one house	...	...	...	...	20
(c) persons wanting to marry	...	...	...	...	15
(d) back to back houses	...	...	...	...	Nil
(e) insanitary houses to be closed	...	...	...	...	7
(f) extra hands for new works	...	...	...	...	8

Approximate figures for each township:—				a.	b.	c.	d.	e.	f.
Burtonwood	...	...	...	17	8	5			
Sankey	...	...	...	4		1			
Houghton	...	...	...	1					
Penketh	...	...	...		10	6			9
Poulton	...	...	...	3					
Rixton	...	...	...	7	2			4	
Croft ...	...	...	...	3		2			
Woolston	...	...	...	2		1		3	
Winwick	sub-judice								
Cuerdley	nil.								

The 28 houses (Burtonwood 3, Sankey 4, Houghton 1, Penketh 9, Poulton 4, Rixton 2, Woolston 2, Winwick 3) which the Lancashire County Council may build for police and roadmen will only relieve if they are occupied by those officials at present living in the respective townships.

Requirements on average for next three years, 88.

